

**What is claimed is:**

- 1 1. A method for billing a customer for waste collection, comprising:  
2 identifying an amount of recyclable waste;  
3 determining a credit amount based on the amount of recyclable waste; and  
4 reporting the credit amount to the customer.
- 1 2. A method according to claim 1 wherein the step of identifying includes identifying a  
2 weight.
- 1 3. A method according to claim 1 wherein the step of identifying is performed based on an  
2 indicia on a container.
- 1 4. A method according to claim 3 wherein the indicia represents an approximate weight of  
2 the contents of the container.
- 1 5. A method according to claim 3 wherein the indicia identifies the recyclable material in  
2 the container.
- 1 6. A method according to claim 3 wherein the indicia identifies an approximate value of the  
2 contents of the container.
- 1 7. A method according to claim 1 further comprising:

2 identifying an amount of non-recyclable waste;  
3 determining a charge amount based on the amount of non-recyclable waste; and  
4 reporting the charge amount to the customer.

1 8. A method according to claim 7 wherein the step of identifying an amount of non-  
2 recyclable waste includes identifying a weight.

1 9. A method according to claim 7 wherein the step of reporting includes reporting an  
2 aggregate of the charge amount and the credit amount.

1 10. A container for use in a recycling system, comprising:  
2 a structure for containing recyclable waste; and  
3 indicia disposed on the structure, the indicia identifying the value of the recyclable waste  
4 contained by the structure.

1 11. The container according to claim 10 wherein the indicia identifies the value by  
2 identifying a material type and a weight.

1 12. The container according to claim 10 wherein the indicia is a color.

1 13. The container according to 10 wherein the indicia is a sticker applied to an outer surface  
2 of the structure.

1 14. The container according to 10 wherein the indicia is a symbol printed on an outer surface  
2 of the structure.

1 15. The container according to claim 10 wherein the structure comprises the same class of  
2 material as the recyclable waste.

1 16. An apparatus for billing a consumer for trash collection, comprising:  
2 a processor;  
3 a memory connected to said processor storing a program to control the operation of said  
4 processor;  
5 the processor operative with the program in the memory to:  
6 receive a first amount representing an amount of trash identified as non-  
7 recyclable;  
8 receive a second amount representing an amount of trash identified as recyclable;  
9 apply a charge based on the first amount;  
10 apply a credit based on the second amount; and  
11 report the charge and credit to the customer for payment or credit.

1 17. An apparatus according to claim 16 wherein the first amount is a weight.

1 18. An apparatus according to claim 16 wherein the second amount is a weight.

1 19. An apparatus according to claim 16 wherein the second amount is determined based on  
2 an indicia on a container.

1 20. An apparatus according to claim 19 wherein the indicia identifies the recyclable material  
2 in the container.

1 21. An apparatus according to claim 19 wherein the indicia identifies an approximate value  
2 of the contents of the container.

1 22. An apparatus according to claim 16 wherein the step of reporting includes reporting an  
2 aggregate of the charge and the credit.

1 23. A computer-readable storage medium encoded with processing instructions for  
2 implementing method for billing a consumer for trash collection, the processing instructions for  
3 directing a computer to perform the steps of:  
4 determining a first amount representing an amount of trash identified as non-recyclable;  
5 determining a second amount representing an amount of trash identified as recyclable;  
6 applying a charge based on the first amount;  
7 applying a credit based on the second amount; and  
8 reporting the charge and credit to the customer for payment or credit.